A little bird told me...

Tweeting Birds

Concussion Newsletter

Issue 1
Friday Evening

Get Involved!

There are many ways you can get involved at this convention, everything from participating in workshops, designing your own chaos costume, building robots for Beyond Cyberdrome to volunteering for Green Room, Tech and Gopher Hole.

The Gopher Hole Needs You!

Please volunteer for gophering and sign up for shifts. Earn groats! The gopher hole is on the mezzanine, near ops. (Does it help to mention it's above the real ale bar?)

The Green Room Needs You!

See the Gopher Hole ad above, but the green room is on the mezzanine above the main bar and breakfast area (Dockside). Get to hang out with famous authors - and get them drinks!

Tech needs ~~beer~~ You!

Find Clare G. to volunteer for tech - try the sound desk at the back of Argyll 1, but she'll be busy during programme items, and also between items, so choose your time carefully!

Workshops

There is a list of (craft) workshops on page 25 of the ReadMe. There are limited places available so sign up soon, either at registration or outside the workshop room (Staffa). Some workshops will require a small payment.

Fan funds

Give us all your money!

Before you've spent all your cash in the dealers' room, in the bar or on registering for yet more conventions, you'll have the opportunity to give it away in a good cause at the auction in aid of the League of Fan Funds on Friday evening (Argyll 3, 21:30). You'll be able to buy things to read, things to eat, things to wear, things to do, things to display, things to show your friends, and things to hide in a cupboard until the next auction.

Donations of more stock – or just money – are always welcome too. Come along to Argyll 3 from 21:00 if you have a donation for the auction, or have a word with Claire Brialey at the Cold Tonnage Books table in the dealers' room during the day. You can also cast your vote in the TAFF (Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund) race at the auction, at Saturday evening's TAFF party, or with Claire.

If all this makes you wonder about what a fan fund is and what it might have to do with you, come along to the 'SMOFF: Make a Fan Fund' programme item earlier in the evening (20:00 again in Argyll 3). SMOFF is intended to put the fun back into fan funds, as an assortment of candidates work out how they're going to convince you all to vote for them when they can't even agree on what SMOFF stands for… If you have any queries in advance, look for Flick.

No plan survives contact with the enemy ... part 1

Liz Sourbut cannot be here this weekend. Please amend your ReadMe as follows:

Fri, 2000-2130, Argyll 2
Signing Session
- Add Liz Wein, John Grant

Sat, 1100-1200, Argyll 3
The Enduring Call of Cthulhu
- Add George Mann

Sat, 1300-1400, Mezzanine
Kaffeklatsch
- Delete Liz Hand, Paul Cornell
- Add Dan Abnett

Sat, 1700-1800, Argyll 1
Orbital Cleavage
- Add Feorag

Sat, 1700-1800, Argyll 3
"Sword Blades and Poppy Seeds" - Where Does Your Inspiration Come From?
- Delete Tanith Lee

Sat, 1700-1800, Orkney
Reading
- Delete Liz Hand
- Add Lisa Tuttle

Sat, 1700-1800, Staffa
Kaffeklatsch
- Add Liz Hand, Geoff Ryman
- Delete Liz Sourbut

Sun, 1100-1200, Argyll 3
The Other Kind of Fantastic
- Add George Mann

Sun, 1000-1100, Argyll 2
Up Close and Personal
- Delete Tanith Lee

Sun, 1300-1400, Orkney
Reading
- Delete Lisa Tuttle, Liz Sourbut
- Insert Liz Hand, Geoff Ryman

Sun, 1800-1900, Argyll 2
How Children's SF influences future reading
- Delete Amanda Hemingway

Mon, 1300-1400, Argyll 2
How to write the truly terrifying.
- Delete Tanith Lee

Media Programme

There are listings for the Media Programme scattered around (well, at least we've seen a couple!) and it's a very impressive programme indeed. It runs each day from 9:30 until 12:30 (lunchtime) and more items later between 18:00 and "late" in the Orkney Suite. The room is used for other programme items between 12:30 and 6.

The first items of the day (9:30-10:50) are specially designed for children (accompanied by a responsible adult) but all are welcome.

No plan survives ... part 2

Room Allocations

Creche will be in Room 601

Saturday Kaffeeklatches at 13:00 and 17:00 in the Mezzanine

Bar Barred on Sunday

On Sunday you won't be able to buy drinks at the bar until 12:30, and no, that doesn't mean they are free before that.

Readings

Geoff Ryman will be reading (Palms? Meters? Something anyway …) on Sunday from 13:00 to 14:00.

His Kaffeeklatsch is on Saturday at 17:00.

Harry Turner – Get Well Card

Harry Turner - a long-time fan - is currently in hospital and may be there for a few more weeks.

Friends are invited to sign a get-well card for him at the Cold Tonnage Books table in the Dealers Room.

Awards

As members of Eastercon you are invited to vote for the awards that will be presented this weekend. The ballots will close at 18:00 Saturday. The BSFA awards include the best novel, short fiction and artwork of 2005. Please also vote for an unsung hero for the Doc Weir award. See a past Doc Weir award winner, buy him or her a drink and he or she will tell you what it is all about. Ballot forms are available at the BSFA table in the dealers' room. The short-listed artwork is on view at the BSFA table. The ballot boxes for all awards are at registration.

Spot the Lobster Competition

Across the river from the Crowne Plaza is the new BBC building, described as the most boring building in the world. However it looks a lot better with an imaginary lobster on the roof. If you get a photograph or make a drawing of the imaginary lobster on the roof, then there may be a prize (possibly imaginary!)

Construction Health and Safety

Earlier today we had a minor incident where several rooms in the convention were cut off by the activity of builders. Order was restored when the children tidied the Lego away into the allocated area outside the Chaos Room.

Arggh, we've been boarded by pirates who are making us put the ad to the right in ...

No plan survives contact with the enemy ... part 3

So of course the newsletter main computer showed up with a corrupted C drive ... but thanks to the hard work of various people (including the nice AlexMc, the sterling Naveed and Jan) we're up and running on laptops and, fingers crossed, we'll have the main machine back on line by sometime tomorrow.

A Warning to all Seafarers

Those pesky 'Sisters of Neptune' girls are about again, press-ganging Con members into joining pirate crews in the SCRAP (Robot) Workshop.

Do not try to argue with these sirens of the deep. Our advice is to just give them money, beer, a kiss or whatever else they demand and leg it whilst you have your dignity.

Fashion note

This Con, we will mostly be wearing Pirate Outfits. If you haven't brought yours, then go to Chaos Costumes and ask Barbara and Teddy for their help, expertise and understanding. (Arrr!)

Stop Press ...

The Coke machine outside Gopher Hole charges less than the bar. And yes, the machine is working now!

Girls!

Are you mustard for hi-jinx?

Then join the thrilling

'Priestesses of Neptune'

And arcane mysteries and membership of a cabal of chums can be yours!

Learn incoherent sea curses! * Wear mysterious seaweed! Drag men, screaming, beneath the waves** to do your bidding!! Corking laughs and japes! Secret maps! Make respectable people damp!** Be touched by noodly appendages! Midnight feasts! Be an object of fear and superstition! Demand 'Sacrifices to old father Neptune' with menaces! Go anywhere in the convention without let or hindrance! Run about, waving your arms and howling unnervingly! Your own plank! Have really cool thigh-length boots! *

All this and this super **'Sisterhood Bracelet'** *

Just apply at the Registration desk to receive your secret pack at **dead of night**!

FREE

this shimmering blue fish bracelet

* Subject to availability of Plunder. You can pretend.

** Any body of water is fair game really. Carry a glass.

Tweeting Birds - Concussion Newsletter – Easter 2006 – Issue 1 – Friday Evening
Brought to you by the letter Q, the number 3 and the editor Chris with the invaluable help of Jan, Mike, Wilf, AlexMc, Naveed, SMS, and a multitude of others who refrained from commenting just enough.
Please send comments, reviews, photos etc. to ConNewsletter@gmail.com or just come to the newsletter office or find me in the bar.
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A little bird told me...

Tweeting Birds

Concussion Newsletter

Issue 2

Saturday Daytime

Masqueraders

Entry forms for the masquerade are in the Chaos costuming room on the mezzanine
Come one, come all!

Note To Parents

You must sign your child up at Ops if you need to use the childcare; there are limited places.

Fan funds

A Taste of TAFF

James, ½r, Bug, and Sparks want you! You are invited by the three candidates in the 2006 Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund (TAFF) race and the current European administrator to come along to Argyll 1 this evening to meet them, taste their wares, and consider how to cast your vote. The TAFF party will take place at 21:30, following the awards ceremony. The party is supported and will be opened by Interaction, last year's World Science Fiction Convention; funds raised from the party will go to TAFF and the other fan funds.

No plan survives contact with the enemy ... part 4

Update to the previous admiralty announcements, after some more pirate interference, to please amend your ReadMe as follows:

The **TAFF and Interaction Thank-You Party** will swap rooms with the **Saturday Night Quiz**. The Party will now be in Argyll 3 and the Quiz in Argyll 1.

The **Masquerade Rehearsal** will be in Argyll 3 from 15:00 to 17:00 Sunday.

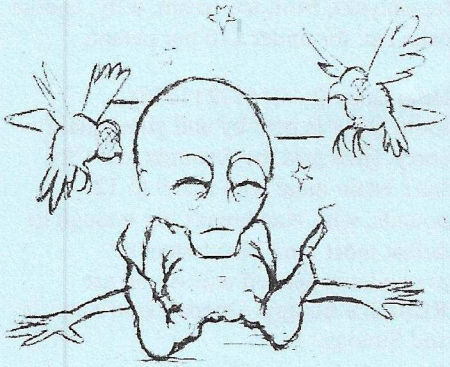
The **Masquerade** will now start at 20:45 in Argyll 12 (so you can go to dinner first now and still come and see the show).

Ian Sorenson's GoH Trial will now be at 22:00 (still in Argyll 12).

Who Wins Minnie?

YOU can win Minnie - A Chocolate DALEK. In fact you can win not only Minnie, but also a free membership in Recombination - the 2007 Unicon.

Maybe you will explore the delights of eating the tasty inside of Minnie the chocolate Dalek. Go to the Recombination desk to get an entry form for the quiz.



Media Programme

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The first items of the day (9:30-10:50) are specially designed for children (accompanied by a responsible adult) but all are welcome.

More Invasions

Redemption Brainstorming Boardroom Saturday 14:00 – All ye faithful come to the defense of trufandom!

Releasing Bradley

Could Phil Bradley, who took part in yesterday's tech panel, please contact Andrew Wilson or any of the G.U.S.T. team, as a release form must be signed regarding the footage shot at the panel (Fri 13:30 Argyle 1).

Angus Wells RIP

UK author Angus Wells (1943) died on Thursday evening (13 April). There was a fire at his house which might have been either the cause or the consequence. Reported by Chris Priest via Dave Langford (http://ansible.co.uk).

Awards

BSFA and Doc Weir Award

Remember that voting for the BSFA awards and the Doc Weir award closes at 18:00 today. You'll be able to applaud the winners on Saturday evening (21:00, Argyll 1) at the awards ceremony, hosted by John Jarrold.

Vote today!

Hall Costumes

Hall Costumes need awarding too; don't forget to use the vouchers you've received with your registration pack.

Year of the Teledu

Year Of The Teledu will be awarding a prize for the funniest ammendment to any of their posters or any completely new designs. Show them at their convention table, or in keeping with the tradition of the members creating the convention you can do them yourself. (The fact that "Teledu" is Welsh for "Television" is a total co-incidence).

British Sign Language

Dr Bob is attempting to learn British Sign Language. If there are any signers at the con who can teach her useful signs like "science fiction", "fantasy trilogy" or "reverse the polarity of the neutron flow" she'd love to meet them.
Dr Bob can usually be found in the bar or the games room.

Yet Other Stuff

Fallacy: Scientists believe that all humans had breasts – or "dugs" – back in the Stone Age.
Fact: Male nipples were used by Pirates as portable weather stations. With their nipples they were able to determine the direction of trade winds and, depending on stiffness, how cold it was outside.
The Gospel of the Flying Spaghetti Monster – Bobby Henderson

Restaurant Reviews

Dragon I
311 - 313 Hope St (tel 0141 332 7728)
Four of us ate there on Thursday evening and it was wonderful. Best described as Chinese-Malaysian-Thai fusion. Excellent prices: about £106 before tip for four of us, including a bottle of the very presentable Australian dry white wine and portions were generous.
My starter was fresh mango and mozzarella wrapped in sliced chicken breast with mango sauce for £4.90. as a main course. I had the beautifully presented crispy duck platter for a main course, £13.90. It had almost, but not quite, more crispy duck than I could eat and, yes, there were enough pancakes.)
Copies of the menu are lying around on the tables outside the real ale bar; please peruse and leave for others to look at.
They are open every day over Easter (including Good Friday) and I'd recommend booking because they are opposite a theatre so will probably fill up with the pre- and post- performance crowds.

Café Andaluz
2 Cresswell Lane (tel.0141 339 1111)
Tapas bar, ideal for large parties, Order ahead and ask for the set menu. They'll ask you how many vegetarians in the part and adapt accordingly. Not suitable for vegans.

Cafe Mao
84 Brunswick Street (tel. 0141 564 5161)
Asian fusion food, Excellent food, ok for vegetarians. Accoustics a problem. They have an upstairs section so could probably handle a large group.

kokuryo
1138 Argyle St (tel. 0141 334 5566)
info@kokuryo.co.uk
Amazing Korean food. Not expensive but don't let the waiter bully you into ordering more food than you want (in the nicest possible way). This restaurant is tiny, with seating for maybe 20. Book ahead and keep parties to four. (to get there, walk over the covered foot bridge and turn left into Argyle St).

Chukoku
292 Sauchiehall St (tel. 0141 332 8120)
Oriental "All you can eat" (actually, much better it says "all you care to eat"!) buffet, including Chinese, sushi, teppanyaki, fruit, ice cream, jelly, cheese cake etc. for under £10 per person.

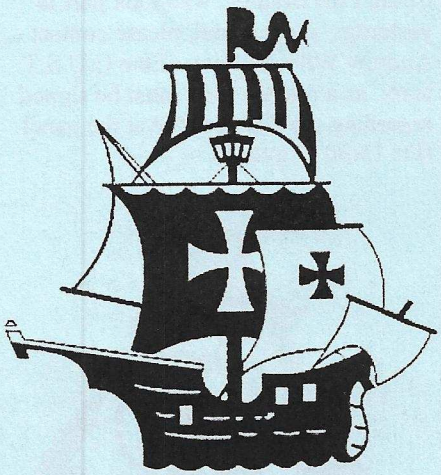
India Quay (tel:01412211616)
India Quay is near by and good quality curry. (just past the Rotunda and City Inn). Main meal with rice 9 to 12 pounds, with Nan breads big enough to defeat most fans. No starters or poppadums needed unless you are REALLY hungry. Opens 17:00 Saturday and Sunday.

Greens Health and Fitness
(on the road that leads up to the City Inn as you come to the SECC)
If you are in search of a cheap breakfast on the way into the convention, Greens Health and Fitness serve everything from full cooked to beans on toast, for around £3.
For gym bunnies who find the Crowne Plaza gym inadequate, Greens seem willing to negotiate access. If you are staying in the City Inn, they have an arrangement with Greens already.

Yet Other Stuff 2

There is a branch of EasyInternet on St. Vincent Street (the town end).

Bravissimo Addicts will find a large store at 229 Ingram Street, Glasgow, G1 1DA



Sudoku 1

As you may all know, to solve the Sudoku puzzle, simply place numbers in the empty cells so that each row, column and 3x3 block contains all the different numbers. (This means no number can appear twice in any row, column or 3x3 block.)
Sudoku 1 is easy, Sudoku 2 will be medium, and Sudoku 3 will be difficult. (Just so you know what's coming next.)

	8	5		7				3
	7					4		
1		6		9	2			
		3	4			5		
			1		8			
		8			6	2		
			5	8		6		9
		2					3	
9				6		1	8	

These Sudoku puzzles were created by Tero Ykspetäjä.

No plan survives contact with the enemy ... part 6

Yesterday our flagship had to retreat from the battle before the first pirate skirmishes, leaving our fleet of valiant laptops to deal with the expected deluge of typos.
Now we're expecting the return of the Desktop Dimension to take command, currently only awaiting new console command, we're ready to accept all your reports on wonderful programme items, gushing restaurant reviews, and all the other gossip fun bits for a massive broadside.
When we're not in (or busy fighting off the pirates), just scribble on the available Submission Forms you'll find in the folder on the door of the Office and leave it in that same folder to be entered into the next edition.

Tweeting Birds - Concussion Newsletter – Easter 2006 – Issue 2 – Saturday Daytime
Brought to you by the letter X, the number 99 and the editor Jan, with the invaluable help of various people, and a plethera of others who just couldn't stop him in time.
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Tweeting Birds

Concussion Newsletter

Issue 3
Saturday Evening

Trains Out

Please note that trains from Glasgow to Carlisle won't be back to normal service until next Wednesday, so travellers in that direction need to plan on a 2-hour bus journey.

Transport Wanted.

Liz Bear urgently needs a volunteer to drive her to Prestwick Airport at 11:00 on Sunday.

Petrol money and groats will be provided. If you can help, please inform Lesley Scott at the Gopher Hole.

Welcome Visitors

Here, in Glasgow, we are honoured to have the company of many fans from outside the UK. Your reporter has already met fans at Concussion from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Holland, Norway and Sweden. These same fans would welcome you at their conventions in their own countries. The Eurocon is in Copenhagen, Denmark next year. Here, at Concussion, you can meet fans who will be very happy to tell you about the conventions that will be held in nearby Europe this year. If you go to one or more of the following conventions you can be assured of a very warm and friendly welcome. British fans are usually offered free or very inexpensive accommodation at these conventions.

Norcon 20 3rd to 5th June in Oslo, Norway.
http://norcon.fandom.no

Ly-Con 2 (pronounced lou –con 2) 23rd June to 25th June in Lübeck, Germany.
http://members.aol.com/FanTimes/LyCon

Conversation 11th to 13th August in Stockholm, Sweden.
http://conversation.hopto.org

Finncon 2005 18th to 20th August in Helsinki, Finland
http://www.finncon.org

Conventus (Contreaty 2006) 24th to 26th November in Maastricht, Netherlands.
http://www.conventus.aanhet.net

Cheap Ryanair flights from Prestwick and Stansted.are available to most of these destinations. There is a direct train service from Eindhoven to Maastricht.

In some books you will see a page marked

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This does not apply in this newsletter

Parents Wanting Childcare

You must sign up your child at Operations (on the Mezzanine) if you want to use the childcare.
There are limited spaces.

Growing Old and Grey

I am obviously too old. The YAFA (Young Adult Fan Activities) programme looks like it is great fun. Just today I watched a gang of teenagers (without hoodies) pour paint over someone being spun round in a boiler suit. Jackson Pollock eat your heart out. Emma and Simone put various things in a microwave which the manual tells you not to. The audience sat behind a sheet of safety glass and wore safety goggles to highlight the seriousness of the scientific demonstration. I'll be there later on fighting the kids for access to the crate of Lego.
- Alex Mc

Young Voices

These children were asked what they liked about conventions.

Calum (11½) likes volunteering and Gophering. He likes making ships and he has been going to cons since Worldcon 1995, but he doesn't remember much about it because he was only one at the time.

Fergus (8) is at his third con. "Don't know. No complaints".

Quillian (3½) likes other children and robots at the pirate party.

Danae (6) likes the Armadillo, Chaos Costuming and Ops where she gets her drinks.

Treasure Hunt

[For the younger fans]
Find the Pirate's Hoard
Treasure hunters should discover where one can find:

Andromeda
The Invisible Man
The Tenth Victim
Teh Shiny!

Hunters should tell Lashing Alex or Barnacle Bazooka in 'SCRAP' (Chaos Workshop) and they will then be given some chocolate.
There will be more to look for and more prizes in the next issue of Tweeting Birds.

Concussion Stats

There were 700 people preregistered for the con – with over 600 warm bodies attending. In addition we have 140 walk ins as full or day members.

Real Ale is selling well and the main hotel bar has been busy all day.

Foreign Cons:

Conventus (Holland) has 90 members and Ly-con (Germany) has over 60 members.

Lift Needed

South (Carlisle or Newcastle) on Monday. Contact Emma Chapman via the Green Room.

Art Show Trust

After years of the Eastercon artboards wandering around the country being looked after by whoever they were dumped on last, a group of concerned individuals have set up a trust to store and maintain the new artboards (as upgraded for last year's Worldcon). More information is available from Tim Illingworth or any other trust member.

Get Well Card

This is the first Eastercon Tony Rodgers has missed in 40 years. He is being treated for cancer. Please sign his Get-Well-card at the "Sign of the Dragon" in the Dealers Room.

Philology Corner

In the interests of international understanding, the Campanile Hotel has labelled their toilets in a manner people of all countries will be welcomed into indigenous Scottish culture. They are labelled "Rest Rooms". Please go to their information desk and point out their error.

Gopher Requirements

Department heads are asked to inform Lesley Scott of the tasks that will need to be done by gophers during Sunday so a rota can be prepared before the 10:30 gopher meeting.

Smuggling news

There used to be a tax on importing ginseng into Japan. To circumvent this, goats were used as mules.

Forked Up!

On Friday afternoon, the bar ran out of cutlery. Fans formed a fork queue. There are no expletives in Glaswegian.
- Peter Redfarn [150]

More Books

Beccon Publications ere happy to announce a New Book: *Chip Crockett's Christmas Carol* by Elizabeth Hand. More details available from Beccon Publications

Restaurant Reviews

There are many restaurants that offer "Eat as much as you like" menus. One, in Glasgow's Charing Cross district offers this service at the highest quality level in the Indian style. Go to the Koh-i-noor Restaurant at 235 North Street to have a full filling evening.

KoolBa, Merchant Square, Candleriggs. Glasgow G1 1RB, 0141 552 2777
A fine Persian restaurant in a strange location, Merchant Square. It's like a sort of indoor piazza with restaurants around the edges and a dealers' room in the middle! Dealers selling handmade jewellery, art work etc. from trestle tables throughout the evening.
Six of us ate there, including starters and main courses, plus a few beers, some soft drinks and a bottle of rioja for £150. The menu swings between fine Greek/Turkish style meze and kebab to excellent Indian food, and the naan bread is stunning (so very light and cooked on the inside of a traditional big clay oven. And the peshwari naan is incredibly thin and has a delicate taste of aniseed.
Highly recommended (there is Movenpick ice-cream for dessert but no-one had room for that!)
A taxi for six people from the Crowne Plaza to the restaurant cost £5.
- Chris O'Shea

Cosmopolitan and Street-wise?

At the bar, order your cosmopolitan in a tumbler, or they'll serve half of it in a very stylish glass - and throw away the other half!

The Philip K. Dick Awards

These are for distinguished science fiction books published for the first time in the United States as paperback originals

2005 Philip K. Dick Award Nominees

Cowl by Neal Asher (Tor Books)
War Surf by M. M. Buckner (Ace Books)
Cagebird by Karin Lowachee (Warner Aspect)
Natural History by Justina Robson (Bantam Spectra)
Silver Screen by Justina Robson (Pyr)
To Crush The Moon by Wil McCarthy (Bantam Spectra)
The results will be announced on Friday, April 14, 2006 at Norwescon 29 in Seattle, Washington.
Concussion hopes to provide a live link-up, and wishes Justina the best of luck! We are awaiting these results at the time of going to press.

Pirate Ship Flotation Testing

Results of Experiment No. 1
Checking Hotel Water Pressure
With both taps turned full on, the bath fills to the overflow in 90 seconds. If left running, the water overwhelms the overflow in 105 seconds.
Caution:
Beware when activating the shower.

Pirates attempt to take over the NewsLetter!

And not just the SMS sponsored pirates (see numerous articles) but COMPUTER PIRATES! During regular checking of the main newsletter laptop, the FLOOD.E (or similar) virus with "tskdbg.exe" was found. Be careful about sharing memory sticks!

Loosing IT in a Hay Lecture

Alice jenkins, a self confessed Powerpoint virgin, was served by an emergency replacement laptop. Things went horribly wrong when said laptop's operator admitted that this was his first time with Powerpoint too. Helpful audience comments: 'Press the space bar' and "Use the up arrow' added to an amusing and informative lecture.

Swordfighting workshop

This workshop (Monday 13.00 to 15.30) will be split into two parts:
13.00 to 14.15 **Basic Introduction to swordplay** – for anyone who hasn't picked up a sword for a while or ever. We'll teach you a couple of guards and attacks with a discussion of why they work.
14.15 to 15.30 **More Advanced swordplay** – for anyone who knows a few techniques. This session will expand on the guards and attacks learned previously and examine the science and the principles behind them.
Both sessions will offer the opportunity to practice under close supervision, and include demonstrations of 'proper' swordfights.

Please note, despite our efforts to make this activity as safe as possible it can be dangerous; you will be asked to sign a waiver of responsibility and both workshops are only open to those over 18. Even so, your opponent may hit you occasionally. Mistress Pain can be a good teacher… if you don't like her, please don't take part.

Spectators may be allowed depending on space. Please don't be offended if we ask spectators to leave; it will be for safety reasons.

To take part in either workshop please sign up at Registration, or on the door. Places will be limited and allocated on a first come first taken basis.

Thought For The Day

"Perhaps a Kiwi Bird sitting in a blender will fly out before the switch is thrown."
- Gospel of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster

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Tweeting Birds
Concussion Newsletter

Issue 4
Awards Special

2005 AWARDS

Presented by Farah Mendlesohn due to the unfortunate indisposition of John Jarrold, the original MC.

Best novel

- *9Tail Fox* – Jon Courtenay Grimwood (Gollancz)
- *Accelerando* – Charles Stross (Orbit)
- *Air* – Geoff Ryman (Gollancz)
- *Learning the World* – Ken MacLeod (Orbit)
- *Living Next Door to the God of Love* – Justina Robson (Macmillan)

Winner: **Air - Geoff Ryman.** Award presented by M. John Harrison.

Geoff talked about the long time from the first draft in 1996 and thanked Jo Fletcher for making it such a beautiful edition.

Best short fiction

Farah mentioned that there would normally have been five nominations but that due to a complex tie in the nomination process, eight stories made it to the final vote.

- 'Bears Discover Smut' – Michael Bishop (SciFiction, 26 October)
- 'Bird Songs at Eventide' – Nina Allan (*Interzone* #199)
- 'Guadalupe and Hieronymus Bosch' – Rudy Rucker (*Interzone* #200)
- 'I, Robot' – Cory Doctorow (*Infinite Matrix*, 15 February)
- 'Imagine' – Edward Morris (*Interzone* #200)
- 'Magic for Beginners' – Kelly Link (*F&SF*, September – also collected in *Magic for Beginners*, Small Beer Press)
- 'Soft Apocalypse' – Will McIntosh (*Interzone* #200)
- 'Two Dreams on Trains' – Elizabeth Bear (Strange Horizons, 3 January)

Winner: **Magic for Beginners - Kelly Link.**
Award presented by Stephen Baxter.

Left to right front row: Geoff Ryman, Roger Robinson
back row: Niall Harrison, Jetse de Vries, Steve Lawson;

Accepted by Niall Harrison who, on Kelly's instructions, offered to buy everyone a pint (the pint will be available later, bring your own straw!)

Best artwork

- Cover of *Brass Man* (novel by Neal Asher, published by Tor UK) – Steve Rawlings
- Cover of *Elantris* (novel by Brandon Sanderson, published by Tor) – Stephan Martinière
- Cover of *F&SF*, January 2005 – Max Bertolini
- Cover of *Interzone* #198 – Kenn Brown
- Cover of *Interzone* #200 – Pawel Lewandowski
- 'Run!' (*We3*: chapter 2, pp2-3, published by Titan Books) – Frank Quitely (with Jamie Grant and Grant Morrison)

Winner: **Cover of *Interzone* #200 – Pawel Lewandowski.**
Award presented by Anne Sudworth

and collected by Jetse de Vries, representing the Interzone editorial team, on Pawel's behalf. Anne had trouble opening the envelope and Farah joked that they couldn't provide a knife to help because it was against the convention weapons policy!

Non-fiction award

This award was decided upon by a panel of judges for the best non-fiction writing (book, article, webpage etc.) dealing with Science Fiction and/or Fantasy. The judges were Niall Harrison, Steve Jeffrey and Geneva Melzack.

The award was presented by John Clute to:

Soundings: Reviews 1992-1996 by Gary K. Wolfe (Beccon Publications)

Roger Robinson (who *is* Beccon Publications) accepted the award, saying how pleased he was to accept it on Gary's behalf. He added that Beccon was chosen because it was known as a small press that could be counted on to produce the book quickly and well. Roger also mentioned that it was a nice coincidence that the book was originally conceived during a conversation between Gary and John Clute and was launched at a BSFA meeting.

A longer list of recommended non-fiction reading will be made available by the BSFA (or may appear on the con newsletter website if we have time to type it in!)

Richard Evans award

Richard Evans was a much loved and respected editorial director at Gollancz who died, tragically young, ten years ago. In his memory, his friends and colleagues established an award to be given each year to a "highly worthy but insufficiently recognized author". This year the Richard Evans award is presented to Pat Cadigan. She was unable to attend but will be receiving the award, which is presented in a form dear to the heart of all authors, a cheque for £1,500.

Doc Weir Award

The Doc Weir Award is given to those "unsung" heroes of fandom who make a difference. The award started in 1963, and has been presented nearly every year since. This is the 40th award and it goes to **Steve Lawson**.

In the absence of the 2005 Doc Weir winner, Dave Lally (at the Eurocon), the award was presented by Mark Plummer

(who won it in 1996). Around 15 previous winners of the Doc Weir award are attending Concussion (though only about four were in the room, as the rest were either busy working on the convention, out for a meal or in the bar!).

The Philip K. Dick Awards

These are for distinguished science fiction books published for the first time in the United States as paperback originals.

2005 Philip K. Dick Award Nominees

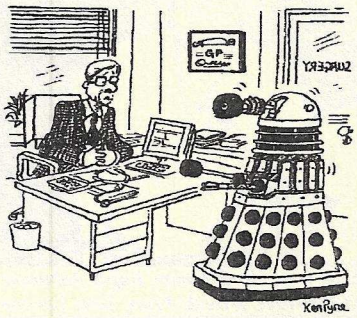
Cowl by Neal Asher (Tor Books)
War Surf by M. M. Buckner (Ace Books)
Cagebird by Karin Lowachee (Warner Aspect)
Natural History by Justina Robson (Bantam Spectra)
Silver Screen by Justina Robson (Pyr)
To Crush The Moon by Wil McCarthy (Bantam Spectra)

"The winner of this year's **Philip K. Dick Award**, for best original paperback published in the US in 2005, is M.M. Buckner's **War Surf** (Ace Books), with a special citation given to Justina Robson for **Natural History** (Bantam Spectra). Results were announced this evening at Norwescon in SeaTac, Washington." *Results courtesy of Locus Magazine (www.locusmag.com)*

Buckner's other two SF novels are: *Hyperthought* (2003, PKD nominated) and *Neurolink* (2004).

The Eastercon Forum

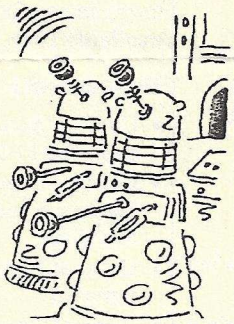
Sunday 12:00 is a space to discuss the burning issues facing Eastercons. There will be representatives from past and future Eastercons, but it's mostly an audience participation thang. This means you!!!



"You're not the doctor I had last time!"

Doctor Who: A Checkup

'Hmnnn... New teeth, that's weird!'
And, so, this is the 10th Doctor's first story and It's About Change.
Now, in some senses, this is his third Adventure, after the 'teaser' mini-episode and the proudly 'Christmas' Turkey Leftovers from Outer Space, but they (For all their quality and Canonical Validity), acted as 'fingerfood' to whet our appetites for this second season, in much the same way some Very Old people remember the Second Dr's adventures after he'd been tried by the Time Lords, and before he was abducted by Scarecrows (TV Comic)
So: The Dr changes and, as he's mentioned before 'All life depends on change', the Homo Sapiens, Felix Domesticus, and the Earth itself. To hang onto the past is to become Ossified, sterile and... well, like a piece of skin stretched on a frame, cattily voiced by Zoe Wannamaker. Death is a part of Life, for planets and villains (But not the Dr or Rose). Did you see what they did there? Accept change or you're not merely a Sad Fan, but actively opposing the Doctor Himself.
Regeneration stories traditionally have a 'Continuity/ Change' theme. Cybernetic Zombies: New Dr: Old Daleks. Sods he ran away from in the first place: New Dr: New UNIT. Old Mentor: New Dr: UNIT family. Universe and the Tardis wearing out: New Dr: Recursion. . Dying companion and Dr: New Dr: Godawful Slugbirth.
Whogivesashit: New Dr: Whogivesashit and so on... This one did it better.
For the first time in Dr Who TNG, we actually see another planet (Though it might just as well be just 'The Future') and the 'Hospital' theme gives a fine excuse for 'Dr' jokes and thrilling Cat Nurse-Nuns. The return of an Old Enemy (Continuity y'see, and plausible too!) and the morbid body-horror of clinging to the Old Flesh is saved by the New Flesh of the Dr.
Unquestionably, Mr Tennant is as instantly likeable as any of the Dr's and wears his all-too-contemporary clothes with dash. The No Sex Please We're Gallifreyans rules are now stretched to a point where they may be safely termed 'Outdated canon'.
He spent the previous season effectively nicking someone else's bird because of his flash transport and snogging her on the dodgy premise that it 'transfers energy from the Tardis' (A thing he never seemed necessary with, say, his Other Selves). This season, he's acceptably dishy, whilst he and Rose spend every third sentence telling each other how much they love... something, whilst looking lovingly at each other.
In any reasonable sense, they've Scored and their relationship is now more like that of Steed and Emma or Mulder and Scully who 'fancy each other like mad and *might* be shagging each other rotten but we've never seen them do it'. Unlike Steed and Emma, our Transtemporal lovers have RT Davies Plot devices that allow them to snog 'without it meaning anything' (Again) and a commentary of just how much they fancy each other, along with a solid gold plot opportunity for our Dr to camp it up in a way Pertwee was never offered.



"Is it me or are doctors getting younger?"

A ripping good story with weird creatures aplenty, hugely sympathetic zombies, wizzo tek, witty lines (Personal fave: 'God, I'm a Chav') and a cool 'ooooo!' inversion of the 'Ark In Space' Bio-Cryogenic Units. All this with truly 'Doctorish' values of the Sanctity of Life, a Magic Plothole and a truly original and emotionally affecting time travel twist at the end (Though requiring Damascenely improbable character development) wherein Change is Accepted. Little wonder that the following 'Trip of a Lifetime' game show on BBC1 began with the sort of 'Tardis' joke so loved by Family Entertainment programs of the 1970's... Change, but strangely familiar.
SMS

Tweeting Birds - Concussion Newsletter – Easter 2006 – Issue 4 – Awards Special (late Saturday night)
Brought to you by the letter box, the number of the beast and the editor Chris with the inestimable help of (and occasional photos from) AlexMc, Jan, Mike, Pat, SMS, John Dowd, and a gaggle of others who were too drunk to care.
Cartoons ~~stolen~~ borrowed from Private Eye and The Times.
Please send comments, reviews, photos etc. to **ConNewsletter@gmail.com** or just come to the newsletter office or find me in the bar. This newsletter (plus additional articles, photos etc.) is available on www.ConNewsletter.co.uk

A little bird told me...

Tweeting Birds

Concussion Newsletter

Issue 5

Sunday Daytime

Start Press

Special guest Mat Irvine (SFX for Dr Who and Blake's Seven) has arrived and has a selection of props and models on display in the dealers' room. Mat will be available periodically to talk about his exhibits.

No plan survives contact with the enemy ... part 7

An update to the Read Me grid - the launch party for *Parietal Games*, the SF Foundation's collection of critical works by and on M. John Harrison, will take place on the mezzanine at 19:00. Cheap wine - free if you bring or buy a copy of the book!

Media Programme

Sunday's Presentations include repeats of Doctor Who (19:00-20:00), Alan Garner's 'Red Shift', Daphne Du Maurier's 'The Breakthrough', 'The Earth Dies Screaming', some hyper-cute Anime as well as 'The Call of the Cthulhu'.

Piping Aboard Auctioneer

The Concussion committee would like to thank Rog Peyton for running the Art Auction.

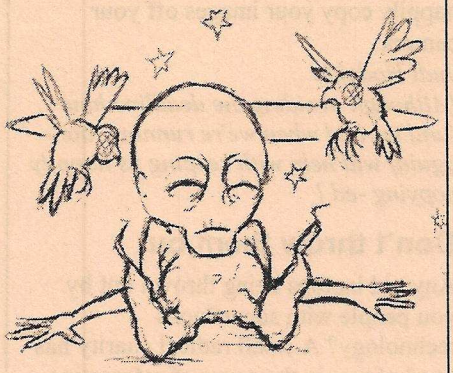
Pirate Command Structure (arrr!)

If you are press-ganged into working in the "SCRAP" Robot Workshop, you will be in the crew of either Pirate Queen 'Salty Thighs' Eira or Captain 'Crab Trousers' SMS. Thankfully you'll be placed under the direct command of Shipwrights Alex 'Lash Up' Holden or 'Barnacle Bazooka' ... who are marginally less barking.

Lost and Not Yet Found

If a red con bag is found containing a blue folder labelled "expenses" is found, could it please be handed in to Ops or given to any of the G.U.S.T. team. Rather urgent!

Mandy Todd



Orbital Cleavage

Ken MacLeod acted in the "Straight Man" role to Dee, Sue and Judi's discussion of the female form in Science Fiction art. People were sitting on the floor, desperate to hear the panel and see the projector. We learnt, among other things, that Hollywood dresses are held up with "tit tape" which also doubles as "toupee tape".

Sue Quotes:

When asked to introduce herself Sue Mason asked the audience if there was anyone in the audience who didn't know her. Only Fellow Plokta Cabalist Dr Plokta raised his hand.

SMS to Sue: Are you saying that Jim Burns' pinup artwork is a bit too intellectual for you?

Sue: I bought this book of pornography as a present, but I kept it and read all the articles.

Overheards

About ½r's punch: "I suppose the fruit has vitamin C in. The fruit has vitamin C_2H_5OH in".

At the ZZ9 Sales Table: "I'm going to get my mum to pay for this Beeblebear. I was going to get a tattoo, so she will be quite pleased."

Where have all the handles gone?

My room has a chest of drawers with no handles, but that's not as bad as the changing rooms at the swimming pool where one has to open the cupboard doors by pulling on the key...

Interaction Freebies

CDs, Hardback Souvenir Books, and Posters are available from the Interaction desk in the Dealer's Room.

Future Eastercons...

CONVOY

The 2007 Eastercon to be held in the Liverpool Adelphi with guests Judith Clute, Peter Dickinson, Robin McKinley, and Sharyn November. An attending membership is £45.

ORBITAL

The 2008 British National Science Fiction Convention to be held in the Heathrow Radisson Edwardian with guests Neil Gaiman, Tanith Lee, China Miéville, Charles Stross, and fan guest of honour Rog Peyton. An attending membership is £35 (rising to £45 on 1 June 2006).

Party On

Sunday, Staffa Room 21:30-23:00: Combined "Denver in 2008" and "Montreal in 2009" Worldcon Bid Party

Flash Fiction Workshop

The organisers would like to thank all participants who got up in time to join in the writing at 9:00 on Saturday. We hope you find the feedback sessions useful and fun.

Kate Bodley

Tolkien Quiz Winners

Rosenbloom's Plus One won the Tolkien Quiz. Tol Nim were only third, due largely to their inability to bribe the quizmaster, and provoking him into asking them especially hard questions: who was the second membership secretary of the Tolkien Society, indeed! The Tolkien Society would like to thank the filkers for giving them lots of extra time.

Photographs wanted of Masquerade, BC and everything. Please deliver them to the Newsletter Room

Restaurant Reviews

Top Deck at the Ferry, Anderston Quay, Glasgow, G3 8DL. 0141 248 5376
The Ferry: a boat moored on the Clyde towards the City Centre. A pleasant 10-15 minutes walk along the river. Excellent service and substantial food at a reasonable price. We particularly enjoyed the macaroni cheese and the salmon stack (£6.90 and £9.95 respectively). NB The restaurant is accessed via the gangplank furthest from the SECC lest you try the other one and think it is closed.
Kate Bodley

Two more places to eat ...

Very fancy haggis neeps and tatties at 78 (78 Vincent Street, 0141 2487878)
The main courses less impressive (and my friends duck was dry), but the Scottish cheese platter was large and luscious. The French syrah was a perfect.

Mix and match cultures at the Rotunda (hot Thai mussels and duck in plum sauce!)

Bathroom Design (continued)

It is evident that Those Who Design Hotel Bathrooms are deeply ethereal people who labour to preserve the Mystery of the Shower from the Unwashed Uninitiated. Observe the sublime perfection with which they place the taps where they are not only hidden behind an impenetrable glass screen and thus inaccessible to those lesser mortals who have not yet achieved the First Step of Cleanliness, viz Stepping Into the Bath; but are further protected, once set into motion by the ill-modulated attempts of the neophyte, by a Scalding Stream of Divine Fluid. To proceed further into the Mysteries of the Shower, the nervous postulant must undergo the Ordeal of plunging a naked arm into the Purifying Stream. What Sublime Architectonics! What Excellent Device of Ritual Initiation!
(To be continued)

Wanted

Lots of really nice photos of our guests. Please bring images to the newsletter room in Rockall, where they will happily copy your images off your camera.
Judi Hodgkin
[Although avoiding the deadline hour (and beyond when we're running late - again) will help with keeping us happily copying -ed.]

Don't throw them out

Any old laptops being thrown out by you people with superfluous technology? A small radical charity has need of two in the cause of reforesting Scotland. If you have old kit then please contact webmaster@reforestingscotland.org
Emma Chapman

Leather Feathers

It's Easter, it's Glasgow and there is a leather shop closing down sale on at Leather Gear, 6/8 King St., Glasgow G1 (tel.041 552 6139), open Sunday and Monday 11:00-17:00'ish. Enjoy.

Running On

As if (co)running an Eastercon was not enough work, one of our co-chairs (modesty forbids reveiling her name ... oops...) decided that, deep down, they really, really wanted to be part of the filkers, and limbered up with some chords. Fortunately for everyone else at the USSG room party these operatic 'bon mots' were short-lived, which left everyone else free to comment on how many people there were (more than the Marx brothers' State Room scene from 'A Night at the Opera'), and how come the Scandinavian room party already had complaints about the noise?
Alisdair Hepburn

There is hope!

Thoughts that the younger generation are mutating into square-eyed zombies are challenged by the comparative attendance of the children's video programme and the cyberdrome workshop. Noggin is good, but robotic pirates are better! Go Robot!!!!

Sudoku 2

Just to remind you, to solve the Sudoku puzzle, simply place numbers in the empty cells so that each row, column and 3x3 block contains all the different numbers. (This means no number can appear twice in any row, column or 3x3 block.)
Sudoku 2 shouldn't be too hard after the easy start, Sudoku 3 will be the difficult one.

	9	7		3				6
6				4	7		1	
	3	8			5			
						4		7
	6		2		3		9	
3		1						
			6			3	7	
	1		7	5				2
7				9		1	5	

These Sudoku puzzles were created by Tero Ykspetäjä.

Religious News

Rejoice! For the events at this con are being closely observed by the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, and the religious ceremony to combat global warming (also known as "Beyond Cyberdrome") will be feared on the Church's official website (http://www.venganza.org/index.htm).

The Missionary Position

Those seeking guidance may ask it of the high priestess of the sisters of Neptune who holds the gospel of the flying spaghetti monster. Ask her to read out a quote just for you!

Thought for the Day:

In the beginning was the Word, & the Word was "Arrrgh!"
Piraticus 13:7 - The Gospel of the Flying Spaghetti Monster.

Programme Item reviews wanted. Please deliver them to the Newsletter Room or email them as below even after the convention has finished.

Tweeting Birds - Concussion Newsletter – Easter 2006 – Issue 5 – Sunday Daytime
Brought to you by the letter η, the number n and the editor Jan, with the invaluable help of various people, and a flock of others who just happened to get in the line of fire.
Please send comments, reviews, photos etc. to **ConNewsletter@gmail.com** or just come to the newsletter office or come and find me in the bar. This newsletter (plus additional articles, photos etc.) will be available on www.ConNewsletter.co.uk

A little bird told me…

Tweeting Birds

Concussion Newsletter

Issue 6

Sunday Evening

Join Early! Join Often!

Convoy and Orbital desks will be open from 10:00 to 16:00 tomorrow (Monday).
Remember! Convoy is a one year bid – you can't wait until next year before joining – and they would appreciate getting your membership as soon as possible!

Still hungry?

Mzouda, 141 Elderslie Street, 0141 221 3940
Friendly Moroccan/Spanish restaurant, one mile from the con. Interesting food with plenty of fish & vegetarian dishes. Around £25 each for three courses, glass of wine and tip.

Koh-i-noor Restaurant, 235 North Street
This is one of many restaurants that offer "Eat as much as you like" menus. In Glasgow's Charing Cross district, it offers this service at the highest quality level in the Indian style.

No plan survives contact with the enemy … part 8

The Scrapbooking Workshop has been moved to Monday at 10:00 in Staffa. Please come along to learn more about preserving your Eastercon memories. See p25 of your ReadMe for details.

Did you see?

It's Not Easy Being Green

An interesting reversal of roles that I don't think I've ever seen before. In this Saturday evening item. One of the audience members was becoming angry at the way that the panel were talking about what "environmentalists" do/believe/think, to the extent that she publicly walked out rather than get angrier. One of the panellists, Paul Cornell, dashed after her and gave up his place on the panel to her, saying he thought she had more right to be on it than he did.
[Kathy W]

Room parties

The Scandinavians and USSG deserve many thanks for organising two stonking room parties. Both were packed, and both were asked to wind up after noise problems. Fortunately the fun continued even after being forced to decamp to the Mezzanine, with the first John Junkin Memorial Game of Mornington Crescent. Nice one, Martin.

Arg!yll

The partition wall between Argyll 1 and Argyll 2 has been causing consternation. It takes two hotel staff 20 minutes to move, or 30 fans 5.6 seconds. Just try not to lose any fingers whilst doing it.

Difficulties

The sound proofing between parts of Argyll isn't perfect. John Clute in Argyll 2 (doing a programme item on ***Difficulties***) started a cheering war with the ***Eastercon Bid Session*** in Argyll 1 after complaining that not enough people were cheering him.

Beyond Cybarrrrghdrome

Major steps towards the diminution of global warming were taken today in the lee of the Armadillo, when hoards of pirates gathered together in the traditional religious garb of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster.

Cap'n Crab-Britches SMS says "I really like being wet." (having fought Pirate Queen Salty Thighs Eira to the death (or at least the dunking) on a plank generously donated by the hotel .

Others say: "Arrggghhh arrgghhhh arrgghhh brrrr brrr aaarggh!"

And "The only reliable motive force is the wind".

And "A true test of humans against technology and nature. We failed".

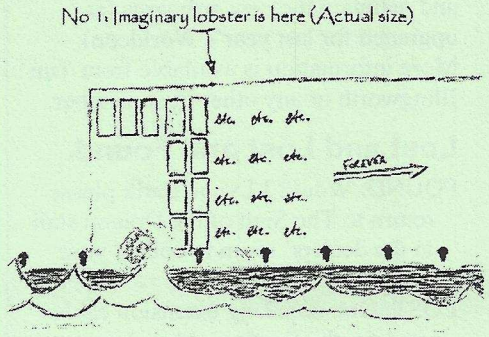
Alex Holden's professionalism, expertise and ridiculously well equipped workshop were used to produce an amazing display of sea-power from the paddle streamer Rampaging Roger to a nuclear submarine. James Bacon and Bazooka kept the drunken sea captains in line, and ensured the show was professional, entertaining, and that very few children drowned.

Results From the Deep:

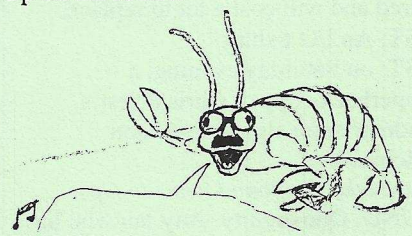
Best engineered: Rampaging Roger by Alex 'lash-up' Hamilton.
Sea battle winner: Mice of War by Sally 'sailor's friend' Sinclair
Best in showarrr: The Black Tentacle by Feoraaaagh
Awards will be presented at the Closing Ceremony.

Eira won the wet blouson competition while SMS won the derision of an entire convention's worth of children.
[SMS]

Imaginary Lobster sighted on BBC building



Up on the roof…

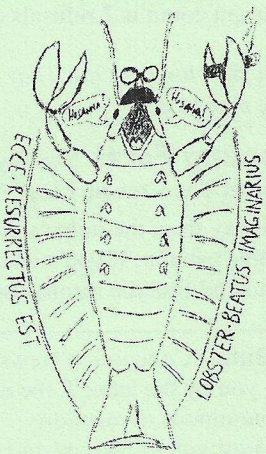


Ohhhhhhhhh…
I'm the imaginary lobster
I had an amusing song
But it was cut to ribbons by an unsympathetic editor
Tra la la
I'm the imaginary looooooob-sterrrrr!

Shortly after this recording was made the imaginary lobster was sadly cooked and served thermidor in an imaginary butter sauce by an imaginary Gordon Ramsey. IN MEMORIAM IMAGINARY LOBSTER 1974-2006 "WE HARDLY IMAGINED YE"

But …

On the third course, he shall RISE AGAIN IN GLORY!!



Behind the Scenes

Art Show Trust

After years of the Eastercon artboards wandering around the country being looked after by whoever they were dumped on last, a group of concerned individuals have set up a trust to store and maintain the new artboards (as upgraded for last year's Worldcon). More information is available from Tim Illingworth or any other trust member.

Lost and Lost and Found

FOUND: Would J Lynne Batik please return to The Sign of the Dragon stall in the dealers' room to collect your property.

LOST: One *very* long extension cable used for the Gamerz video. It was hired and will cost a lot to replace.

LOST: An I/O t-shirt.

LOST: on Saturday evening, a paperback copy of Chris Priest's Indoctrinaire signed to Alison McInnes.

Please take any found items to Ops.

FOUND: One dignity. Any fan who has lost theirs should report to the newsletter room. If you describe how you lost it and it matches the one we have, we will return it to you.

FOUND: One pair of trousers found in the Real Ale Bar. (We know who they belong to – we just want to embarrass her a bit more).

Have you heard?

Newsletter Reporter: What programme items did you enjoy?
Liz: The panel I moderated was quite good.
Claire: The panel you were in was quite good too.
Newsletter Reporter: So you are saying that any panel with Liz on it was quite good?

James Bacon has learnt manners. He has started asking women before kissing them. Current count is 2 refusals out of 42.

This is my first time in Ops. That's why I'm being nice to you.

Fascinating Facts You Shouldn't Know About The Crowne Plaza Area

The Walkway from the railway station is a giant sonic cannon. If you stand at the station end and find the resonating frequency of the walkway the Clyde Auditorium will explode.

It may look like a spaceship but the Clyde Auditorium is the only man-made object on the plaza. The rest was built by termites in the Pleistocene era.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel is still growing. You could find out exactly how old it is by cutting it in half and counting the layers of wallpaper. Unfortunately no one can find a saw big enough. [John Toon]

iPatch advertisement

More Future Conventions

Swecon 2006 – Imagicon

The National Swedish Convention will take place in Stockholm from 13th to 15th October 2006. Guests of Honour will be Joe Haldeman and Martin Andreasson. http://www.imagicon.se

Hansecon 22

Hansecon 22 will take place in Lübeck, Germany from 26th to 30th October 2006.

This is a fannish con with no guest of honour. Lübeck is a city worth visiting for its medieval character and is a World Heritage site. See the Hansecon/Ly-Con desk for more information.

http://members.aol.com/LyConvent

Meanwhile in Kiev

Eurocon GoH **Harry Harrison** was given a Grand Master of Fandom award by the Eurocon committee (along with two Ukrainian authors) and an Honorary Award by the ESFS itself, for services to SF.

There were four bids for Eurocon 2008: Chotebor (Chech Rep); Moscow (Russia); Budapest (Hungary) and a very late bid from Timisoara (Romania). Timisoara withdrew and in the vote **Moscow** was the clear winner for 2008. They will avoid the Easter weekend, so there will be no clash with Orbital. [Dave Lally]

Young Opinions

Eleanor, (10) is here for her second convention. Her first was the Worldcon, here in Glasgow. She said that she would like to go to every Eastercon in future. Eleanor will be entering the masquerade as one of a trio of Basilisks with Ila and Katherine. Your reporter was informed that there are three sorts of basilisk. One turns people to stone with a look, one kills people with its fangs and tail, and the third turns people to ice with its tongue.

Eleanor claims to be a well travelled girl. She visited Venice while she was still in her mummy's tummy but does not remember much about the visit.

Kethry (11) is enjoying her third convention. She likes meeting people, getting new books and meeting authors. Kethry a will be in the masquerade with Danae. Kethry is the Easter Bunny and Danae is the tiger who doesn't get an Easter egg.

Ila (Nearly 11) is at her third convention. She likes gophering as does Eleanor. She likes participating in the masquerade. She and Eleanor liked YAFA very much at the Worldcon and would like to see something similar arranged at all future Eastercons.

In a later interview, Danae (6) said she likes conventions and liked playing with the boats and she will be in a surprise costume in the masquerade. She likes playing with other children and dressing up and she wants to be at the next convention.

Erata

In Tweeting Birds 3 it was stated that the next Finncon would be from 18th – 20th August 2005. Because of the lack of a Tardis, this has been rescheduled to 18th – 20th August 2006.

http://www.finncon.org

Apologies to Howard Rosenblum for misspelling his name in a previous issue.

Sword fighting workshop

This workshop is only open to over 18s.

Finally

John Jarrold flew home this morning. He is still ill but recovering rapidly. He thanks everyone for their good wishes.

Tweeting Birds - Concussion Newsletter – Easter 2006 – Issue 6 – Sunday Evening
Brought to you by the letter J, the number –1 and the editor Mike, with the inviolable help of AlexMc, Jan, Pat, Wilf, SMS and others too numinous to mention.
A special thank you to Naveed and Graham who have helped solve Newsletter hardware problems this weekend.
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A little bird told me…

Tweeting Birds
Concussion Newsletter

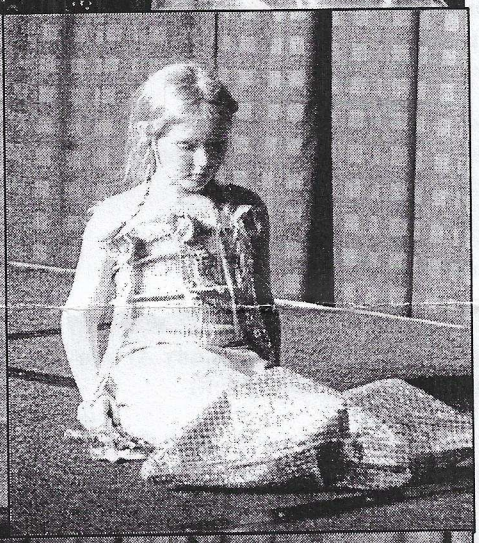
Issue 7
Masquerade Special

Masquerade Winners

All costumes were designed and made by the wearers, unless otherwise specified.

The Best Child Entry – The Snake Sisterhood (picture right)
Ila Khan and Kathryn Meenan and Fireowl

Best in Show - Instrument of War
Andrew Patterson (below)



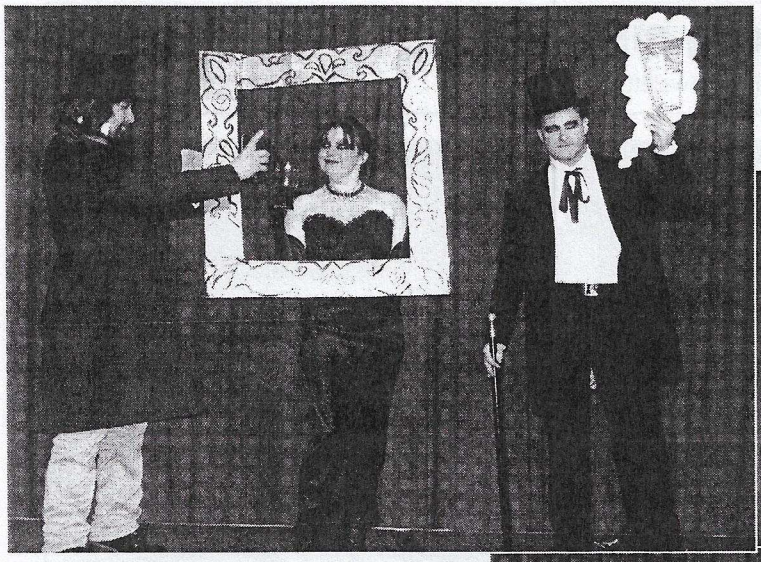
Children

Clockwise from left
Dance Routine – The Easter Bunny Parade
Leah Heywood, Eleanor, Danae Walker, Kethry Dickson

The Best Joke and Nice Wings – Lucy Angel and the Holy Spirit
Kathryn Meenan (designed by Kathryn and Bridget Meenan)

Ahhh.. Award – Fairy Mermaid Princess
Mathilda Streets (designed by Rae Streets)

Revenge Award – The Witch!
Sabine & Karen Furlong



Adults

Best Presentation – Dragonschlocky
Mark Slater, Eira and SMS (designed by SMS) (top left)

Imagery Award – Snow Queen's Apprentice
Guilia De Cesare (top middle)

Best Newcomers - Sally Scissorhands
Sal Nicholson and Aandi Inston (chaos!) (top right)

Best Group – The Zombies with a special mention – The Brain
Year of the Teledu (right)

Special judges Choice – Lady Arwen
Sabine Furlong (bottom left)

Environmental Award – Woodland Spirit – With best use of potpourri
Gillian James (bottom middle)

IMPORTANT REQUEST TO ALL MASQUERADE PARTICIPANTS

Glasgow University Student Television have been filming around the con to make a 30minute documentary about the Eastercon. They hope also to sell it on to the BBC, and need therefore a signed consent from all Masquerade participants. If you have not yet filled in one of these, please could you collect a form from Ops – parents please sign for children under 18. Thank you.

Presenter: Sue Mason (bottom right)

Judges: Teddy, Brian Froud, Jillian Dixon

Thank yous: Alice Lawson, Claire Goodall, Tech Crew, Wranglers, Gophers, Isambard Kingdom Brunel for the corsetry

Prizes were small phlosque-ish glass blocks with images such as "a petrified angel", "a fairy wing thing", "a fairy riding a dragonfly" and "a fairy playing tennis and you can see up her skirt"

Tweeting Birds - Concussion Newsletter – Easter 2006 – Issue 7 – Sunday Night
Brought to you by the letter ¤, the number π and the editor Chris, with the unvaluable help of a flash of photographers.
Please send comments, reviews, photos etc. to **ConNewsletter@gmail.com** or just come to the newsletter office or come and find me in the bar. This newsletter (plus additional articles, photos etc.) will be available on www.ConNewsletter.co.uk

A little bird told me...

Tweeting Birds

Concussion Newsletter

Issue 8

Monday Daytime

Wandering Luggage

Non-residents of the Crowne Plaza can also leave their luggage with the concierges (Kevin and Scott) for £1 per person.

Is There a Past for Science Fiction?

The panel on Scholarship of the Fan community concluded that fandom, as an oral community, would loose all it had just talked of. Here, then is a record of what otherwise would be lost, by a partial and prejudiced archaeologist.

A wide-ranging panel discussion began by discussing the terms 'professional' and 'academic', and later introduced the term 'independent scholar'. We quickly diverted to talk of the insanity of bibliographic referencing by edition date without mentioning the date of original publication. We discussed the different interests and expertises of those who write about science fiction for love, and those who are paid for writing about science fiction, alongside an overwhelming workload which is devoted to other things. And the joys and productivity of collaborative working – most evident in fan-to-scholar personages (e.g. Tom Shippey) and certain conferences (e.g. the Liverpool Conferences).

We concluded with talk of the history of fandom. The value of fanzines and oral testimony were discussed, and skirted briefly around the issue of whether the history of fandom was of interest to scholars outside of fandom.

I left before suggesting that we write a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. But if bought enough White Russians, I'll agree to do anything.

Pat

Wonderful Art

The Art Show went well and was enjoyed by both artists and the convention members who visited it. Final sales totalled £2771. One item remains to be collected by its buyer. Thanks to Dave Tompkins, Ewan Chrystal, Nojay, Robbie Bourget, Erhard and all the gophers who helped. Also thanks to Rog Peyton for the Art Auction. Service to the state.

John Harold

Thanks!

Many thanks to everybody who helped out at the convention, but the newsletter especially wants to thank the people who kept us supplied with not only contributions, but also lots of illustrations (such as the ever-present 'Captain Hook' SMS, John Toon for the imaginairy lobster in issue 6, Ila Khan for the above gopher) and photographs (such as John Dallman for most of the masquerade photos, as well as David Cook, David Ulis, Jane Killick, Pat Reynolds, Thomas Recktenwald), and everyone else who found the newsroom.

Going Orbital

If anyone has a local Sci-Fi shop, bookshop or library that would be willing to put out Orbital flyers, please collect some from the Orbital desk before you go.

Convoy on the Horizon

Since Convoy is a one year bid, please join now, rather than waiting. You CAN'T wait until next year to get on board, it's already underway.

Convoy and Orbital desks will be open until 16:00

Overheard

Iain Coleman (a Scot) striding manfully back to the Crowne Plaza from the City Inn, with the wind blowing freely about his kilt: "Trousers – they're a gay thing, aren't they?"

To Gripe Or Not To Gripe

Feedback on Concussion was generally positive. Actually that's not true. The feedback was mainly negative but about relatively small irritations such as signage and programme changes. This counts as positive at 10:00 on a Monday.

As usual, part of the reason given for a lack of nice-to-haves such as better signs was a lack of volunteers – in the month or so before the convention as well as on the day. Last year's UK Worldcon (unlike '95 and '87) does not seem to have generated a great deal of interest in volunteering - perhaps because it ran quite smoothly itself.

One big issue for Concussion has been childcare facilities. Scottish law is much stricter than English law about using qualified childcare and the number of parents who have arrived and asked for childcare was about three times the number who indicated they would even be attending. In other words, the childcare facility was overwhelmed by the number of toddle-in memberships sold.

There was virtually no discussion of the programme, which probably counts as positive feedback too. The only comment was that it was good to have programme starting early and finishing late. Thanks to the late breakfasts available at the weekend it was actually possible for people staying in the main hotel to get to a programme item before breakfast – or two on Saturday if they were really dedicated.

Representatives of Convoy and Orbital were busily noting observations.

Recombinant Daleks

John Dallman wins the Recombination Dalek. Please find a member of the committee to claim your prize.

Dead Dog Video

A player and screen will be available in Orkney this afternoon. Captain Tartan will be showing from 14:00 – from 15:30 it will be serve yourself. All the material from the media programme will be available in case there's anything you wanted to see but missed.

It Ain't Over Yet

To reassure all ye helpers: GRT's are to be accepted until midnight.

Food Corner

A new and strangely apposite crisis on the catering front – an order for salad brought the news that the con has eaten the hotel out of rocket.
Marion Pitman

Indian Mutiny

Bombay Blues, down the side of Glasgow Central Station.
An all-you-can-eat Indian at £9.95 a head for the evening buffet. Distinctly average. Aftertaste: rough and persistent. The food started out tepid and was neither heated nor replaced while we were there. Fine if all you're looking for is something cheap.

Indefineable Moment

Travelling peacefully up to my room, the lift doors opened on the mezzanine and in got the entire cast of the corsetry panel. As my granddad used to say, "All that meat and no bread!"

I always thought I was a 'bottom' man, but I may be considering conversion..
Mike Westhead

T'was Phlosque

And the Unicorns, had dire and nimble hair-care aid
All airbrushed were the Elven groves
And the mimeographs overpaid

Beware the Dragonshlock my son
The clichéd shyte, the colours bright
Beware the jewel-jugged 'birds' and shun
The frumrous loads of trash

He took his access card in hand
Long time the 'tasteful gift' he sought
Till rested he by an auction twee
And stood quite still... he thought

And while in Fannish thoughts he stood
The Dragonshlock with style quite lame
Posed wistfully in a 2D wood
In an expensive frame!

Now, Lot 1.2.
Who'll bid? Ah, you!
The Access card went snicker-snack
He paid on cred for with his head
He'd nodded at the back

And hast thou paid for Dragonshlock?
Come to 'The Arms'! One Beamish, boy!
Caloo Callay! one's born each day!
He chalked up "Sold: 'Hiss Joy' ".

T'was Phlosque
And the Unicorns, had dire and nimble hair-care aid
All airbrushed were the Elven groves
And the mimeographs overpaid
SMS (as spoken during the Masqerade)

Ditmar Awards

The Australian Science Fiction Awards, commonly referred to as the Ditmar Awards, recognise excellence by Australians in Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror, were presented at Conjure, 45th National Science Fiction, Brisbane, Australia.
Best Novel: Geodesica: Ascent - Sean Williams & Shane Dix, Ace
Best Collected Work: Daikaiju! Giant Monster Tales - Robert Hood & Robin Penn, Agog! Press
Best Novella or Novelette: The Grinding House - Kaaron Warren, The Grinding House
Best Short Story: Fresh Young Widow - Kaaron Warren, The Grinding House
Best Professional Artwork: Australian Speculative Fiction: A Genre Overview (cover) - Nick Stathopoulos, Australian Speculative Fiction Project
Best Professional Achievement: Robert Dobson, Robert Hoge, Kate Eltham, Heather Gammage - Clarion South 2005, Clarion South Workshop
Best Fan Achievement: Shane Parker - Conflux Poster Art, Conflux
Best Fan Artist: Edwina Harvey - The Australian Science Fiction Bullsheet, website and newsletter
Best Fanzine/website: Ticonderoga Online (ticonderogaonline.org) - Russell B Farr, et. al.
Best Fan Writer: Shane Jiraiya Cummings - Writer/reviewer, Horror Scope
Best New Talent: Rjurik Davidson
William Atheling Jr. Award: (criticism or review) Divided Kingdom: King Kong vs Godzilla - Robert Hood, King Kong is Back, Benbella Books
Thanks to David Cook for sending these in on the newsletter email address.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ditmar_Award

Heard

The Crowne Plaza shop (on the way to the car-park), sells Scottish legends books, but also has a nifty means of acknowledging visitors. As you enter, the ribbits are not the result of strange hearing related ailments, but are actually from Frederickson*, the guard frog. Not a real frog. Probably.
* Frederick, the original guard frog, died. So this one is "son of …".

** *we don't do no barking footnotes -ed*

Sudoku 3

All right everyone, finally, here is the difficult one (for those few uninitiated, to solve the Sudoku puzzle, simply place numbers in the empty cells so that each row, column and 3x3 block contains all the different numbers – this means no number can appear twice in any row, column or 3x3 block.).

		5	7				8	
7	4	2		8		1		
	3							5
	6		4	2	8	9		
		4	9	7	5		1	
3							7	
		7		4		8	9	2
	2				7	5		

These Sudoku puzzles were created by Tero Ykspetäjä.

Slippery Slope

What do you get if you ask the hotel for some water for the Ops room?
Friday: Two jugs of chilled water with ice and lemon, presented on a tray with nice water glasses.
Saturday: The same, but with no lemon.
Sunday: No lemon. No tray. Plastic cups.
Monday: No lemon. No jugs. No ice. Just two bottles and some plastic cups.
And what if we were a 5-day convention? Applying the scientific method of extrapolation:
Tuesday: A hose.

Overheard in the bar

"I just went past the filk room. There was one person in there, singing to himself. Does that mean he was wilking?"

Thought for the Day:

"The universe itself is composed of nothing more than an enormous matrix of strings vibrating to their own noodly music, forming a single, unified coherent framework of invisible spaghetti.
Gospel of the Flying Spaghetti Monster.

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Brought to you by the letter Ω, the number ∞ and the editor Jan, with the help of lots and lots of people that dropped in to ask him things he doesn't know anything about, like what's been in the newsletter.
You can still send comments, reviews, photos etc. to **ConNewsletter@gmail.com** but the newsletter office will be closed now. This newsletter (plus additional articles, photos etc.) will be available on www.ConNewsletter.co.uk